<u>CLAIM AMENDMENTS</u>

1.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method of automatically generating payment for electronic billing data for services rendered, comprising the steps of:

<u>formatting billing data from a billing party for use by a host system, a billing party and a billable party for automatically generating payment for services rendered;</u>

automatically obtaining <u>said formatted</u> billing data <u>in an invoice data file from said billing party</u> ~~in an electronic format from a billing party for a billable party~~, said billing data including <u>an invoice that includes</u> billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered;

<u>automatically evaluating the invoice data file to determine whether the invoice data file type is valid;</u>

<u>automatically assigning a code to each invoice data file and invoice within said file;</u>

<u>automatically evaluating the invoice data file and invoice to determine whether they contain essential billing data;</u>

<u>automatically evaluating said invoices to determine whether the invoice has been previously paid;</u>

automatically comparing said billing data <u>in said invoice</u> with rule data defined by said billable party; said rule data containing billing codes; and

automatically authorizing generation of payment data if said billing data satisfies said comparison with said rule data.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said rule data are comparison statements stored in a rules database.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said payment data includes financial data for input to an accounting system of the billable party.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said payment data includes electronic funds transfer (EFT) data.

5.   (cancelled)

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
        automatically generating payment data for said authorized billing data; and
        automatically providing said payment data to said billable party for generating
automatic payment to said billing party.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
        generating a summary message specifying a billing data total amount to be paid;
and
        automatically electronically notifying said billing party of said summary
message.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
        automatically generating billing data analysis reports for review by said billable
party utilizing said billing data wherein said billing data includes billing codes which
identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services
rendered.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said billing data analysis reports are
for review by said billing party.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing
interactive computer screens so that said billable party supplies analysis data for
inclusion in billing data analysis reports.

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said analysis data
includes case budget data including total case time, case hours, case costs, hourly rate,
and case difficulty.

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of automatically electronically notifying said billing party if said billing data does not satisfy said comparison with said rule data.

14.   (Currently amended) A computerized method for automatically processing an electronic invoice generated by a billing party for a billable party utilizing rule data defined by said billable party and an invoice processing party, said method comprising the steps of:

electronically submitting an electronic invoice to an invoice processing party for automatic evaluation in accord with rule data defined by a billable party and said invoice processing party, said rule data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered;

automatically assigning a code to each invoice;

automatically evaluating the invoice to determine whether it contains essential billing data;

automatically evaluating said electronic invoices to determine whether the invoices have been previously paid;

automatically evaluating said electronic invoice in accord with said rule data;

automatically electronically notifying said billing party of results of said evaluation;

automatically generating payment data for an electronic payment and designating said electronic invoice as paid, if said electronic invoice satisfies said evaluation; and

automatically generating invoice analysis reports for said billable party utilizing said paid electronic invoice.

15.   (Currently Amended) A computerized system for automatically generating payment for electronic billing data, comprising:

means for formatting billing data from a billing part for use by a host system, a billing party and a billable party for automatically generating payment for services rendered;

means for automatically obtaining <u>said formatted</u> billing data <u>in an invoice data file</u> from said billing party for a billable party, said billing data including <u>an invoice that includes</u> billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered;

<u>means for automatically evaluating the invoice data file to determine whether the invoice data file type is valid;</u>

<u>means for automatically assigning a code to each invoice data file and invoice within said file;</u>

<u>means for automatically evaluating the invoice data file and invoice to determine whether they contain essential billing data;</u>

<u>means for automatically evaluating said invoices to determine whether the invoice has been previously paid;</u>

means for automatically comparing said billing data with rule data defined by said billable party, ~~said rule data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered~~; and

means for automatically authorizing generation of payment data if said billing data satisfies said comparison with said rule data.

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to operate as follows:

automatically obtaining billing data in an electronic format from a billing party for a billable party, said billing data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered;

<u>automatically assigning a code to the billing data;</u>

<u>automatically evaluating the billing data to determine whether it contains data necessary for processing;</u>

<u>automatically evaluating said billing data to determine whether the billing party has been previously paid;</u>

automatically comparing said billing data with rule data defined by said billable party; said rule data including billing codes which identify the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party as a part of the services rendered; and

automatically authorizing generation of payment data if said billing data satisfies said comparison with said rule data.

17.   (Previously presented) The computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for instructing a computer to operate of claim 16, further comprising automatically electronically notifying said billing party if said billing data does not satisfy said comparison with said rule data, said billing and rule data including qualitative data which identifies the specific tasks undertaken by the billing party.

18.   (Cancelled)